VIRGINIA NRCS RUSLE2 QUICK GUIDE

FY2013 RUSLE2 Update
for NON-USDA Computers in Virginia

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The purpose of these instructions is to enable Virginia RUSLE2 users on NON-USDA computers to run the same RUSLE2 data and templates currently in use by NRCS Field Office personnel in Virginia. These instructions assume that you already have RUSLE2 installed and simply want to update your data. If you do not have RUSLE2 installed, STOP and find separate guidance on RUSLE2 installation. These instructions work for "typical" non-USDA PCs in Virginia. If your computer situation is not typical, you may call Chris Lawrence for help, but in general it will be up to you to figure it out!

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. **You want to run same RUSLE2 data (and get same results) as NRCS in Virginia**

2. **You want to load this data with the fewest mouse clicks possible**

   All of the data in this Virginia update is available from the official NRCS RUSLE2 website at Purdue University. You may download and import into your current moses databse all or part of that data from that site. These instructions provide a faster option by providing a new pre-made database that already contains the latest RUSLE2 data for all of Virginia.

3. **You are willing to archive or at least work outside of your old RUSLE2 database**

   The changes in the new Virginia RUSLE2 data are so extensive (see below) that I recommend simply migrating to a new database. You can permanently archive your old database, or you can simply try the new database temporarily for a while by toggling back and forth between your old and new database using the Database menu "Open Alternate" command. These instructions will help you do this. If you are committed to merging your old data with the new Virginia data into a single moses file, there are multiple ways to do that, but these instructions do not explain how.

WHAT THE FY2013 UPDATE CONTAINS:

1. **All new crop managements**

   As part of a national overhaul of RUSLE2 crop management templates completed in late FY2012 (therefore dated November 2012), we made major changes to the crop managements for all zones pertinent to Virginia RUSLE2 users (CMZs 64, 66, and 67 North). This includes a new approach and new files for running RUSLE2 on permanent pastures in Virginia.

2. **All new soils.**

   The Virginia NRCS Soils Team started maintaining VA RUSLE2 soils data starting in FY2013. They elected to start fresh with new RUSLE2 soils data for all counties in VA (whether or not actual content changed) for FY2013. They also modified how VA RUSLE2 soils files are named, which means new soils data will not link up with existing RUSLE2 calculations.

3. Other changes.

This update also includes a new VA User Template (which controls your screen view).

STEP A. DOWNLOAD CUSTOMIZED RUSLE2 DATA FOR VIRGINIA

1. Find and create a desktop shortcut to your RUSLE2 hard drive folder

a. Determine the directory on your computer where RUSLE2 is installed and your current moses database and other templates are located. I call this your "RUSLE2 hard drive folder". For XP users, this location is typically C:/Program Files/USDA/Rusle2. For Windows 7 users, this location is typically C:/Program Files (x86)/USDA/Rusle2 .

b. Place a shortcut to this folder on your desktop (one way to do this: highlight the target folder, then right-click, then choose "Send To… Desktop (create shortcut)"). You will use this shortcut in next steps below.

1. Save latest Virginia moses database to your RUSLE2 hard drive folder

This link should take you to the target file: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/VA/moses.va.allVA.2012.Nov.zip (If this link doesn't work, see Step 3 below). This zipped file called "moses.va.allVA.2012.Nov.zip" contains data that can only be read by RUSLE2. Do not open it. Save it into your RUSLE2 hard drive folder (use the new shortcut to this folder on your desktop).

2. Save latest Virginia RUSLE2 hard drive data update to your RUSLE2 hard drive folder

This link should take you to the target file
http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/VA/VAR2_HardDriveFolder_Update_2012Nov.zip
(If this link doesn't work, see Step 3 below). This zipped file called
"VAR2_HardDriveFolder_Update_2012Nov.zip" contains data that can only be read by RUSLE2. Do not open it. Save it into your RUSLE2 hard drive folder (use the new shortcut on your desktop).
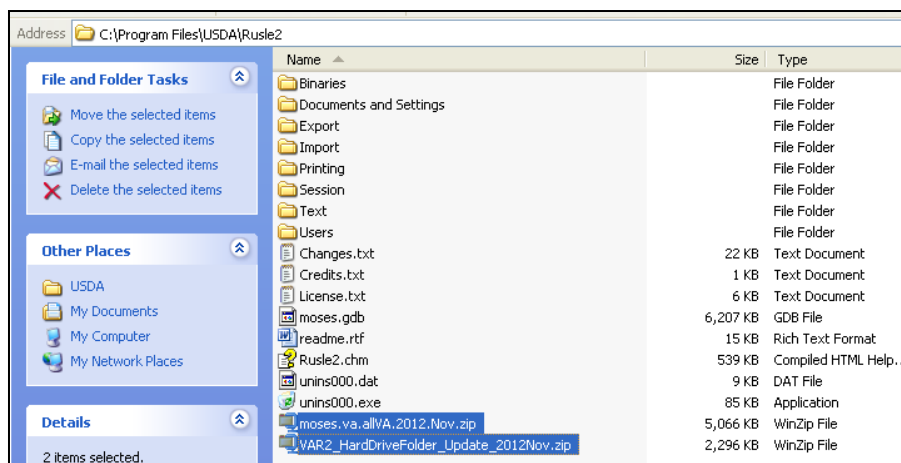
3. If the above links don't work…

Navigate to the Virginia NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section I (one starting point: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=US). Go to "Erosion Information" → "2. Water Erosion" → "b. Sheet & Rill Erosion / RUSLE2" → "ii. VA RUSLE2 Latest Updates".

STEP B. UNZIP CUSTOMIZED RUSLE2 DATA FOR VIRGINIA

4. Open your RUSLE2 hard drive folder

Open your RUSLE2 hard drive folder into which you have saved the two zipped Virginia RUSLE2 data files. Use shortcut on desktop that you created in Step A3., above.   The folder now should look like this:
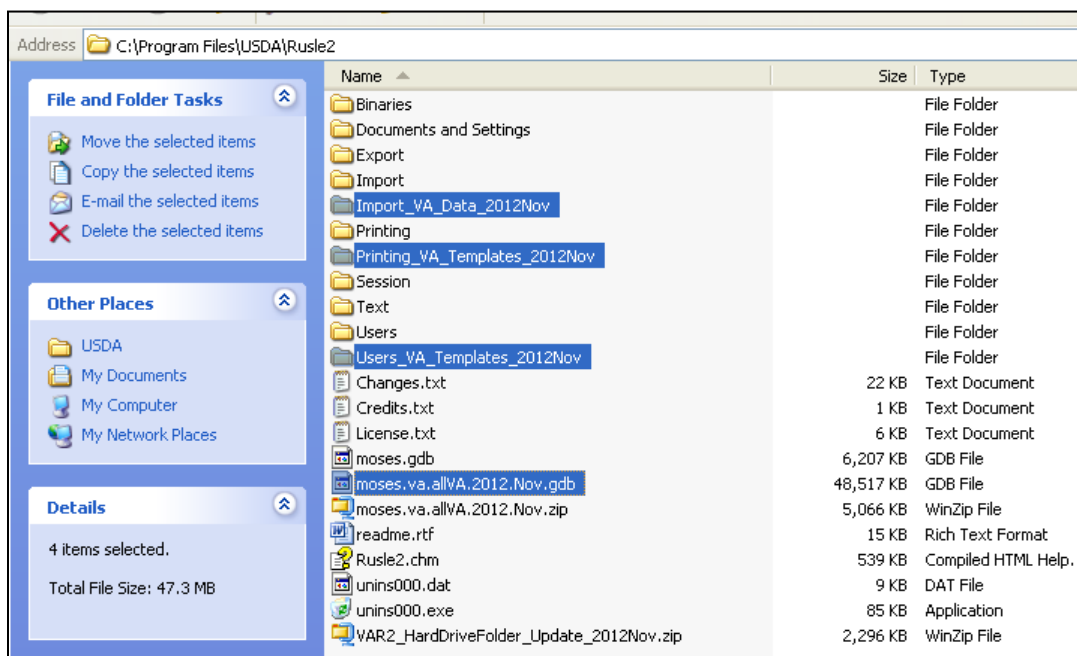
5. **Unzip "moses.va.allVA.2012.Nov.gdb "**

    Recommended method is right-click on the zipped file, then select "WinZip… Extract to here". Other methods may be used. When complete, there should be a file in your RUSLE2 hard drive folder called "moses.va.allVA.2012.Nov.gdb". This RUSLE2 database contains all climates, soils, crop management files, and other base RUSLE2 data currently in use by NRCS in VA. Do not double-click on or attempt to open the ".gdb" file – it can only be read from within the RUSLE2 software.

6. **Unzip "2012_VA_R2_CDRIVE_UPDATE.zip" to create three new VA-specific RUSLE2 subfolders**

    Recommended method is to right-click the zipped file, then select "WinZip… Extract to here". Other methods may be used. When complete, your RUSLE2 hard drive folder should contain three new VA-specific subfolders containing RUSLE2 import data and printing and user templates currently in use by NRCS in VA. Sort folder contents by name. Now folder should look something like:
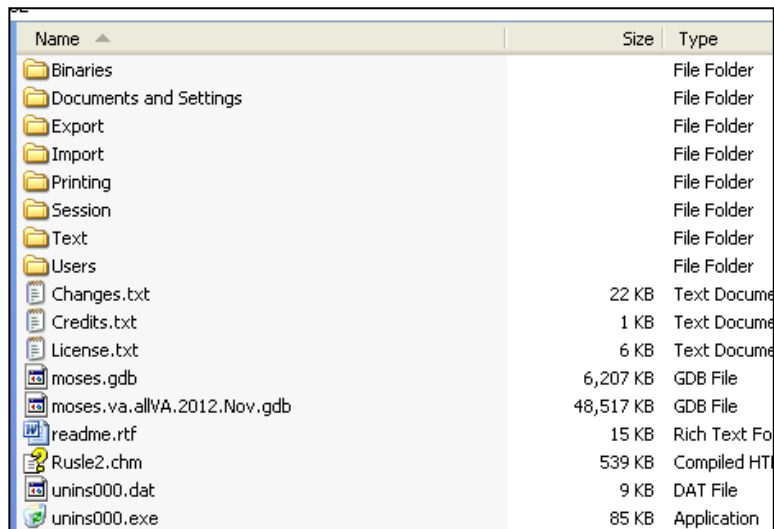

7. **Move new subfolders into existing subfolders**

    Drag "Import_VA_Data_2012Nov" into "Import" subfolder. Drag "Printing_VA_Templates_2012Nov" into Printing subfolder. Drag "Users_VA_Templates_2012Nov" into Users subfolder.

8. **Delete zipped files from RUSLE hard drive folder**

    To minimize clutter and potential confusion, delete the two zipped files once above steps are complete. Now folder contents should look something like:

STEP C. OPEN RUSLE2 & CHOOSE NEW SETTINGS

1. **Start RUSLE2**

   After startup, you may see an "Introduction" dialog box – if so, click "OK". Cancel, close, or say "no" to any other dialog boxes that pop up. Now look for name of active moses database in the bottom right corner of your RUSLE2 screen.

2. **Select the new Virginia moses as your active database**

   From the Database menu, select "Open Alternate". Select the new "allVA" moses database in your RUSLE2 hard drive folder. Now check that name of database you just selected is listed as the active moses database in the bottom right corner of RUSLE2 screen.

3. **Make the new Virginia moses your Startup database (optional)**

   Go back to the Database menu (top left) and select "Startup Database". From this point forward, RUSLE2 should automatically read the new database whenever you open the software. You may also elect to keep your previous moses database as your Startup database. You can simply open the new Virginia moses file whenever you want to use it by going to the Database menu and selecting "Open Alternate".

4. **Select the latest VA Basic User Template**

   The RUSLE2 User Template controls appearance of your screen (how simple or complex it is). Your choice of User Template does not impact RUSLE2 data or calculations, but the right User Template can be very helpful. The name of the active User Template is shown just to the left of the active moses database name in the bottom right-hand corner of the RUSLE2 screen. If it does not say "VA Basic User Template 2012 Nov," right-click on the active User Template name, then select "Load". Choose the latest "VA Basic User Template" available. You may need to first open the subfolder called "Users_VA_Templates_2012Nov" to find it!

5. **Be aware of printing problems with Word 2010 and VA print templates**

   If you are running Word 2010 on Windows 7, you may find that the Virginia-specific printing templates that you just downloaded (found in "Printing_VA_Templates_2012Nov" subfolder within "Printing" subfolder") do not work when you attempt to print. I can find no explanation or solution for this problem. Hopefully the printing templates that came with the installer will work for you.